

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of Matthew WARDEN et al.

Serial No.: 10/600,368

: Group Art Unit: 3724

Filed: June 23, 2003

: Examiner: Not Assigned

For: Method and Instrument for Thermal Suture Cutting

Honorable Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Dear Sir:

Please find the following correspondence items submitted for filing by hand delivery to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer Window located at 2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, VA 22202:

1. Information Disclosure Statement and PTO-1449 (3 pages);
2. Copy of Search Report issued in PCT/US03/19782 (5 pages); and
3. Copies of cited references (7 U.S. patents).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 02/09/04

By Chalin A. Smith

Smith Patent Consulting, LLC

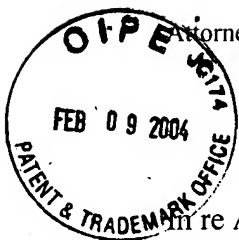
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed herewith. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue there from.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, no certification or fee is required.

The starred (\*) documents listed in the Form PTO-1449 were cited in the prosecution of the corresponding PCT patent application, PCT/US03/19782 filed June 25, 2003 (hereinafter, "the '782 PCT application"). Applicants' representative certifies that these noted documents

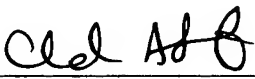
were cited in a communication mailed from the European Patent Office in the '782 PCT application not more than three months before the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of the search report for the '782 PCT application is provided herewith.

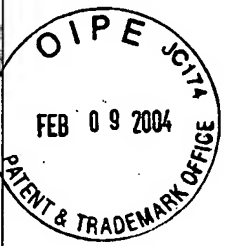
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search had been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item, and Applicant reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 02/09/04

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<div>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION  (PTO-1449)</div> <div></div>				ATTY. DOCKET NO. ROL-002US		SERIAL NO. 10/600,368	
				APPLICANT Matthew WARDEN et al.			
				FILING DATE June 23, 2003		GROUP 3724	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE	
	4,516,574	05/14/85	Hewes, Jr.	128	303.1		
	4,540,873	09/10/85	Kester	219	200		
	4,662,068	05/05/87	Polonsky	30	124		
*	4,845,851	07/11/89	Warthen	30	140		
	5,452,513	09/26/95	Zinnbauer et al.	30	140		
	5,472,654	12/05/95	Crawford	264	163		
*	5,565,122	10/15/96	Zinnbauer et al.	219	227		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						Yes	No
OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.